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Adult Literacy Program

Phone: (888) 466 - 0668

Email: learnstaff@sdcounty.ca.gov

June/July 08

FIRST ANNUAL VOLUNTEER TUTOR APPRECIATION PICNIC CELEBRATION *EXTRAORDINAIRE!!!*

The wind-swept hills of San Dieguito park in Del Mar were abuzz with excitement on Sunday, May 18th, as tutors and friends of L.E.A.R.N. came together to enjoy a beautiful day. A group of thirty people came out to show their true spirit for literacy and to pay tribute to the Literacy and ESL tutors that have volunteered their time to make a difference in the lives of others.

It was a lively atmosphere as we were entertained and delighted by the sweet sounds of acoustic guitar emoting vibrant music and

and bodies active by playing chess and backgammon and tossing a Frisbee around.

At the ceremony during the event, the partnership between L.E.A.R.N. and the Laubach Literacy Council was celebrated. Recently, the partnership was the recipient of the 2008 Acts of Caring award. Deputy Director, Barbara Flynn and Public Information Officer, Nancy Saint John made a special presentation to honor the efforts of volunteers Charles M. Ross and Arlene Atkinson of the Laubach Literacy Council. They presented Laubach as

THANK YOU!

- *L.E.A.R.N. would like to thank all of those who attended the first annual picnic, especially Barbara Flynn, Deputy Library Director, and Nancy Saint John, Public Information Officer as well as Charles M. Ross and Arlene Atkinson, Co-Directors of the East County Laubach Literacy Centers.*
- *L.E.A.R.N. would also like to extend their thanks to all those neighboring companies who contributed to the picnic: San Dieguito Park, Scootz, Starbuck's, Souplantation, Einstein Bagels, Barnes and Noble, 24 Hour Fitness, Baskin Robbins, Henry's Market, and Always Tan.*



dancing. We indulged in a delicious arrangement of sandwich wraps, salads, home-made potato chips, and fresh brownies from Scootz Catering. We also enjoyed wonderful beverages graciously donated to us by Starbucks and Souplantation. In addition to keeping our ears and mouths occupied, we kept our minds

well as the L.E.A.R.N. staff with a beautiful award for the partnership.

After all acknowledgements were made, the opportunity drawing was held. A variety of exciting gifts such as gift cards, memberships, and mugs were given away to the attendees of the picnic. It truly was a great day for the tutors and friends of L.E.A.R.N. as our

First Annual Volunteer Tutor Appreciation Picnic Celebration was a great success. Plans are already being made for the Second Annual Volunteer Appreciation Picnic Celebration. We hope to have many more people in attendance to thank the volunteer tutors for all their time and energy. Although it is far in advance, we look forward to seeing you in April 2009.

AmeriCorps Member – Erica Abbey

Although I accept my learning differences, some learners may feel ashamed because they feel like they stand out. Learning differences are not visible, so the community cannot identify those individuals who are struggling with reading and writing. It is important to remember that learners do not want to stand out while they improve their skills. Use discretion when working with your learner and continue to challenge their needs.

Former Learner-- Curtis Luster, Sr.

MY WASHINGTON, D.C. TRIP

My name is Maria Luisa Teclaw. I came to the U.S. in 1977. I have been learning English little by little. I have learned to speak English by myself, with my family and at my job. Now I'm learning how to read and write better with the help of my L.E.A.R.N. tutor, Donna. I heard an ad for L.E.A.R.N. on the Spanish radio station and that is what brought me to the L.E.A.R.N. center.

In March 2008, I had the privilege to go to Washington, D.C. on a trip as a chaperone with my daughter's 8th grade class. On that trip I learned a lot about U.S. history. I visited Mt. Vernon where George Washington and his family lived. Also, we went to many memorials,



Maria Luisa Teclaw and Donna Hubner

like the World War II and the Vietnam Memorial. We also went to the Lincoln Monument. What really impressed me was the Iraq Memorial. That one made me emotional. We also saw the White House, the Washington

Monument, the Capitol building, the Jefferson Memorial, and most of the Smithsonian Museums. With my high level of English I was able to understand and appreciate my memorable trip to Washington, D. C.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- **Tutor Trainings**
 - Spring Valley
(1st and 2nd part together)
July 12 (10:00am-4:00pm)
 - El Cajon (1st and 2nd part together)
August 9 (10:00am-4:00pm)
 - Vista (1st and 2nd part separate)
August 11 and 13 (5:30pm-8:00pm)
- **Learner/Tutor Time**
 - El Cajon
June 26 (6:00pm-7:30pm)
July 29 (6:00pm-7:30pm)
 - Vista
June 30 (6:00pm-7:30pm)
August 6 (6:00pm-7:30pm)
- **ESL Café**
 - Vista
June 25(10:30am-12:00pm)
July 9 and 23 (10:30am-12:00pm)
August 13 and 27 (10:30am-12:00pm)
 - El Cajon
July 4 and 18(10:30am-12:00pm)
August 1 and 15 (10:30am-12:00pm)

Union Tribune Race for Literacy

This was my first year getting involved with the "Union Tribune Race for Literacy" and it was a wonderful experience. Not only did I get good exercise, I was able to participate in an event that promoted a good cause – to increase literacy in San Diego County.

According to the San Diego Union Tribune, an estimated 3,500 people participated in the Children's Magic Mile on Saturday, and an approximate 4,500 people came out for Sunday's 8K run down state Route 163. Our very own Kevin Vigil raced passed the finish line right around 38 minutes.

Overall, it was great getting to know other staff in the County and to meet their friends and family. It was unbelievable walking five miles on Sunday's race. There were so many people participating that it really made you feel a part of something special. So, I got some exercise this past weekend and enriched my soul at the same time. Show your enthusiasm for literacy by joining us next year.

AmeriCorps Member—Erica Abbey

PURE PERSISTENCE

When I came to America, I had some goals in my mind. To have a job, buy a home, have my family. And one of the most important goals was to read and write English, to communicate to anybody and not feel embarrassed. I think I could do much better in my job and have a better opportunity to go a step up. My wife told me that there is a program in the library where they teach one on one.

It's been almost 35 years that I've lived in America. I have gotten some of my goals. I have a great family, a great job. My job is almost my second home. I spend half of my life or more working there. After these many years, I

can read a magazine or newspaper, but I still have a problem with the writing.

This is part of my life, some of the things I remember. I remember when I was a child. I liked to play with my bike. When my bike broke, I fixed it or asked my friends to do it for me. One time I built a bike from parts that I borrowed from my friends. When you have a problem in life, there is always a solution. Never stop in life for what you want.

I'm from Guatemala. I lived in Mexico City for almost three years. After that time, I moved to the USA. When I came to the USA, I was 17 years old. I had lots of ideas in my

mind. I started working in landscaping and restaurants. I like restaurants because I like to cook and I like the environment. I have been working for The Fish Market almost 27 years. I meet lots of people.



Adolfo Salazar